The Carbondale Historical Society

The Carbondale Historical Society was formulated back in October of 1974.

It was then, at a Columbus Day dinner, that the speaker, Dr. Paul Gillette, called for the preservation of local history.

That prompted six city school teachers, Mrs. Marie Hornbeck, Mrs. Ann Russo, Gloria Wilson, Joseph Pascoe, Martin Roe, and Paul Kaczmarcik to "do something."

They took it upon themselves to start the organization. The Lackawanna Historical Society was approached and asked if there were ever any attempts to form a Carbondale Historical Society.

There were not.

The steering committee members then met with the president of the county body, the Rev. William Lewis, who offered the use of the Lackawanna Historical Society charter, making the city group a branch of the county society.

The first public meeting of the Carbondale Hsitorical Society was held in January of 1975 with monthly meetings in the following months Today the city society has its own charter, but its goals are the same as when it was begun: preserving the area's history through various projects.

One of these, naturally enough, is the acquisition of artifacts.

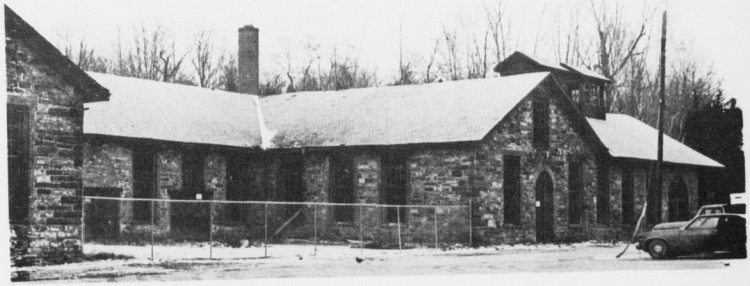
The compilation of an area history is another. Another project is the cataloguing of various buildings by photographing them and compiling historical data on them.

With the renovation of the gravity shops comes another, even greater, project: the establish of a museum to house those local items of an historic nature.

Our Charter Members

M r. Chester G. Lesniewski
Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Mumford
Rev. and Mrs. Irwin L. Brand
Mr. James Tolerico
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Timmons
Ruth Hauenstein
Ruth Eileen Shovlin
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lubin and family
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Scavo and family
James Hicks
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth H. Colville, Jr. and family
Paul W. Hiller
Kathi Price
Robert Price
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carney and family
Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Haubens
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel O'Rourke
Helen Migdas

Continued on other side



THE GRAVITY RAILROAD SHOP BUILDING, LOCATED OFF NORTH MAIN STREET IN CARBONDALE

The Gravity Shop

The Delaware and Hudson Gravity Railroad shop building, pictured above, is a survivor of earlier page of the city's history.

The gravity railroad was completed in the summer of 1829.

The $16\frac{7}{8}$-mile long track from Carbondale to Honesdale was considered an engineering feat.

Built to carry coal from the mines in Carbondale to the canal at Honesdale for shipment to New York City, the gravity railroad later carried passengers to Farview Mountain where a picnic grove was located.

Some Carbondaleans of today still recall the wonderful summer days spent at Farview.

The present stone shop building was erected shortly after a wooden structure burned in 1857.

That structure had replaced another wooden structure which burned in 1845.

The first gravity shop building was a small wooden building constructed in 1832.

Today a monument to the gravity railroad stands off Garfield Avenue at the end of Terrace Street. The monument is visible from Route 6 near the intersection of Belmont and Canaan.

A more recent monument to the shop building itself is but a piece of paper.

That piece of paper recognizes the building as a national historic building, having been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

What gives the gravity railroad its historical significance is that the railroad was one of the first in the nation and some say the Stourbridge Lion, a locomotive tested on its tracks, was the first to run on a commercial railroad.

The renovation of the historic building is now planned by its owner, the Carbondale YMCA.

Join us, please....

By now we've all heard the saying, "You can't tell where you're going until you've known where you've been."

For the members of the Carbondale Historical Society, that couldn't be more ture.

Being historically minded, we know the value of learning the lessons history teaches us and the pride of knowing our past, our heritage.

And it is that past, that heritage, the Carbondale Historical Society is working to uncover, preserve, and to share.

Won't you join us in doing just that?

We invite you to become a member.

If you are already a member, we seek your membership renewal.

We've made great strides since our founding, but there is so much more to do. So much that you can help us with.